

2. (Amended) A peptide according to claim 1 [, characterized in that] wherein the modified arginine residue's side chain is a side chain according to Formula I on the formula sheet, in which

X = NH₂, CH₃, NHCH₃ or N (CH₃)₂;

Y = O, NH, NHCH₃ or N (CH₃)₂;

Z = O, NH or CH₂; and

n = 2, 3 or 4, on the condition that when X = NH₃ and Z = NH, Y is not NH.

3. (Amended) A peptide according to claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that] wherein the modified arginine residue is a citrulline residue.

4. (Amended) A peptide according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the peptide is selected from the group of peptides having the Formula II - X.

5. (Amended) A peptide according to [one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the peptide is a cyclic peptide.

6. (Amended) A peptide according to claim 5 [, characterized in that] wherein the cyclic peptide [is having] has the Formula XI.

7. (Amended) A peptide according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the peptide is a synthetic peptide.

8. (Amended) A peptide according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the antigen is (pro)filaggrin, and the peptide is reactive with a rheumatoid arthritis patient's autoimmune antibodies which are reactive with (pro)filaggrin.

9. (Amended) A peptide according to [one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the peptide is obtained by the proteolytic treatment of (pro)filaggrin, separation of peptide fragments formed by proteolysis and subsequent selection of the presence of a modified arginine residue in a peptide which was formed during the proteolytic treatment.

10. (Amended) ~~An antibody which is cross reactive with an antibody raised against a~~
peptide according to [one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1.

11. (Amended) An antibody according to claim 10 [, characterized in that] wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Amended) An antibody according to claim 10 [or 11, characterized in that] wherein the antibody is obtained by using a peptide according to [one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 as an antigen.

13. (Amended) An antibody according to [one of the claims 9 to 12, characterized in that] claim 9 wherein it is cross-reactive with the antibody as produced by *Escherichia coli* TG1 with plasmic RA3, deposited at the Centraalbureau voor schimmelcultures, at Baarn, the Netherlands under accession number CBS143.96.

14. (Amended) An organic compound comprising a part that is able to compete with a peptide according to [one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 for binding to an antibody which is specific for said peptide, wherein at least said part of the organic compound can be prepared by means of combinational chemistry.